My lord, I will steep this letter in sack, and make him eat it.

P. HEN. That's to make him eat twenty of his words[8]. But do you use me thus, Ned? must I marry your sister?

POINS. May the wench have no worse fortune! but I never said so.

P. HEN. Well, thus we play the fools with the time; and the spirits of the wise sit in the clouds, and mock us.—Is your master here in London?

BARD. Yes, my lord.

P. HEN. Where sups he? doth the old boar feed in the old frank[9]?

BARD. At the old place, my lord; in East cheap.

P. HEN. What company?

PAGE. Ephesians | my lord; of the old church,

the *honourable Roman* is intended Julius Cæsar, whose "*veni, vidi, vici*" seems to be alluded to in the beginning of the letter^ * I commend me to thee, I commend thee and I leave thee.* The very words of Cæsar are afterwards quoted by Falstaff. HEATH

[8] That's to make him eat TWENTY of his words.] Why just twenty, when the letter contained above eight times twenty? We should read *plenty*; and in this word the joke, as slender as it is, consists. WARBURTON

It is not surely uncommon to put a certain number for an uncertain one. Thus, in The Tempest Miranda talks of playing **for a *score* of kingdoms." Busby, in King Richard II. observes that "each substance of a grief has *twenty* shadows." In Julius Cæsar, Caesar says that the slave's hand "did burn like *twenty* torches!" In King Lear we meet with "**twenty* silly ducking observants," and, "** not a nose among *twenty*."

Robert Green, the pamphleteer, indeed, obliged an apparitor to eat his citation, wax and all. In the play of Sir John Oldcastle, the Summer is compelled to do the like; and says on the occasion—[u] "I'll eat my *word*." Harpoole replies, "I meane you shall eat more than your own *word*. I'll make you eate all the *words* in the processe." STEEVENS.

9— frank?] *Frank* is *sty*. POPE.

[1] Ephesians.] Ephesian was a term in the cant of these times, of which I know not the precise notion: it was perhaps a toper. So the Host in The Merry Wives of Windsor: "It is thine host, thine *Ephesian* calls." JOHNSON.